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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

JANUARY SESSION

1897.

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY

LORRIN A. COOKE,

GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

JANUARY SESSION, 1897.

HARTFORD, CONN.:
PRESS OF THE CASE, LOCKWOOD & BRAINARD COMPANY.
1897.

State of Connecticut.

MESSAGE.

GENTLEMEN OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

You are convened as the representatives of a commonwealth, and by your selection are highly honored with the confidence, and charged with the responsibility of legislating for an intelligent, critical, and appreciative people.

The gratitude you feel for the dignity of being a Connecticut Legislator can best be shown by earnest, faithful, and honest performance of duty.

I would be wanting in grateful sentiment did I not at this time publicly express my own appreciation of the honor of the position which, in so generous a manner, the people have bestowed upon me. In compliance with the command of the Constitution I will at this time place before you some information of the state of the government.

FINANCE.

Cash on hand September 30, 1894,		$738,418.07
Received during year ending September 30, 1895,	$1,997,016.35	
Received during the year ending September 30, 1896,	2,117,819.27	
		4,114,835.62
Total,		$4,853,253.69

EXPENDITURES.

For year ending September 30, 1895,	$2,216,679.93	
For year ending September 30, 1896,	2,345,839.91	
Total,		$4,562,519.84
Leaving cash balance October 1, 1896,		$290,733.85
The expenditures exceeded the receipts in the year 1895,	$219,663.58	
The expenditures exceeded the receipts in the year 1896,	228,020.64	
Showing a decrease of cash balance for two years,		$447 684.22

THE FUNDED DEBT.

The funded debt of the State is $1,500,000, 3½ per cent. bonds falling due January first, 1902, and $1,740,000, 3 per cent. bonds due October first, 1910. Total, $3,240,000.

THE GRAND LIST.

The Grand List for October, 1894, ...	$414,258,956.00
For October, 1895, ...	444,321,927.00
An increase of, over previous year, ...	$30,062,971.00

FINANCE.

The condition of the state treasury is one easily comprehended.

We have awakened to the realization of the simple fact that disbursements are in excess of receipts. It is also easy to find the cause: we, as a State, have been somewhat reckless and careless in our appropriation of the public funds. The tendencies incident to the time in which we live, pertaining to originating and supporting charitable, reformatory, and other state institutions, and supposed needs, have led us too far away from our present resources.

The most important problem you will have before you during this session, and the one requiring the exercise of the most careful study and wisdom, will be the ways and means employed to replenish and keep solvent the state treasury. The public funds are taken from the people, and every dollar should be jealously guarded and economically disbursed.

Retrenchments in expenditure should at once be entered upon. I would recommend a careful and thorough examination of the different departments of the State for the purpose of ascertaining if any reduction is possible in the number or in the business expenses incurred by each department or state commission.

The very reprehensible custom which has come into vogue of voting gratuities to the attaches of the General Assembly, amounting to many thousands of dollars, should cease. I recommend early action on your part to prevent any expecta-

tion that this General Assembly will allow these gratuities. I desire to call your attention to the large increase in the judicial expenses of the State in recent years, and to suggest that, if possible, you devise a way to curtail them, if consistent with the administration of justice.

I respectfully refer you to the report of the committee on Appropriations made to the last General Assembly, and printed with the laws, for other suggestions in the line of retrenchment in State expenditures.

While the strictest economy should be observed in the expenditure of the public funds, it is, nevertheless, to be expected that with our ever-increasing population, and wealth, and constant progress toward better conditions for the less wealthy of our citizens, new necessities will arise to invite the careful attention of the General Assembly.

Should you determine to grant further aid to the towns in the improvement of their highways, and should you look with approval on other projects claiming to promote the health, safety, and convenience of the public, an increase in our annual revenues must be provided. It should be your first care to avoid additions to the funded indebtedness. Current revenues should be sufficient to meet current expenses.

You have the power to lay a tax upon the general list of the State. But it is possible that this plan will meet with strong opposition from the poorer and sparsely settled communities already heavily assessed for local purposes. I would advise a careful examination and comparison of the assessments upon all classes of property, to the end that exsting inequalities may be equalized and the burden placed upon the most productive properties receiving the largest public benefits.

SAVINGS BANKS.

Savings banks of the State are reported by the bank commissioners as nearly all in a healthy condition. Number of banks, 89; the number of depositors, 356,445; amount of deposits, including surplus, $149,032,123; State tax, $340,405.

The ever-increasing difficulties that savings bank officers encounter in procuring investments which are sound, and pay income, indicate a possible, not distant, future when the rate per cent. declared as dividends to depositors will of necessity be reduced. As the first thought and principal effort of bank managers should be for the safety of deposits, there should be no straining of resources to reach a right rate of dividend.

Your attention is directed to several recommendations of the commissioners for your consideration.

STATE BANKS.

Number of State banks are eight; total assets, $8,356,515. The total assets have decreased during the year $315,563.43. There has been a gain in amount of surplus, $85,209, and a decrease of $54,793 in undivided profits, leaving the net gain $30,416.

TRUST COMPANIES.

Number of trust companies is twelve; total assets, $7,522,-380; the assets have decreased $553,746; the surplus has increased $60,727; undivided profits decreased $109,268; leaving net decrease, $48,540.

THE SCHOOL FUND.

Amount of the fund, 1895, $2,013,102.01; amount of the school fund, 1896, $2,008,048.97; enumeration of children, 1895, 174,443; and the amount of dividend, 75 cents each, $130,832.25.

The shrinkage in the capital of the fund of $4,526.11 since July, 1895, is accounted for by the fact that certain securities that appeared in the schedule of 1895 have been charged off as of no value, or sold at prices lower than the amount originally loaned.

The capital of the fund is classified as follows:

Bonds and mortgages,	$1,670,000.74
Real estate,	163,173.86
Bank stock,	167,147.61
Cash in treasury,	7,726.76
	$2,008,048 97

The commissioner regards the bulk of the securities accepted by the department during the past fifteen years as in a satisfactory condition, although there is reason to fear that the general depreciation in value of Connecticut farm property may have resulted in some impairment of values.

JUDICIAL.

The court work for the past year has been done smoothly and promptly. The delay in reaching trials has been less than formerly, and is becoming less all the time.

In the Supreme Court of Errors the work has been done punctually and the decisions published without delay, and have been, I believe, reasonably satisfactory to the public.

The judicial expenses of the State for 1895 were $369,362.51, for 1896, $366,765.65.

UNIFORMITY OF LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

I call your attention to the doings of the State Board of Commissioners for Promoting Uniformity of Legislation in the United States, at their conference held at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., August 15, 1896.

The report, with recommendation of proposed acts, will be placed before you.

EDUCATION.

Number of schools in the state,		1,563
Number of teachers,		3,708
Number of scholars,		141,485
Cost of the schools in 1895,	$2,796,831	
Towns and districts were taxed,	1,968,170	
Estimated population of the state,		820,000
Cost per capita for running expenses annually,		$3.41

The statistics show that in every direction for several years there has been a large increase in the expense for common schools.

There has been expended within the last ten years $22,000,000. The State has three Normal Schools for the training of teachers, which have cost $350,000. The State paid, in

1895, for running expenses of the Normal Schools, $59,110.-44. Sixty-seven towns in the State have established high schools, while in one hundred and eight towns there are no high schools, and it is quite impossible for many of these towns to have them. The Secretary of the State Board of Education says in his report: "The question now is, whether it is not the duty of the State to compel all who begin the work of teaching hereafter to secure for themselves the training which will make them fit instructors of the young." The Secretary also advises the consolidation of school districts under town management, as conducive to the improvement of the schools. The Department of Education calls for the largest expenditure of money by the State for its maintenance, and results should be expected correspondingly large.

AGRICULTURE.

The report of the Board of Agriculture gives ample evidence that the farming, dairy, and other branches of this industry are making great advances in scientific and practical knowledge of soil, crops, and domestic animals. The questions before the people of the State at the present time include those pertaining to the supply of healthy food, embracing milk and its products, and a water supply, and the preservation of the purity of our streams. Legislation has made much progress in this work as knowledge in these matters has advanced.

The Storrs Agricultural College is now in a prosperous condition, offering, at small cost, instruction to the sons and daughters of Connecticut in all the departments of knowledge of a practical character that pertains to rural life.

The General Assembly, 1895, appropriated twelve thousand dollars for the purpose of building a cottage for girls. This building has been completed and is now occupied.

The present appropriation to the Storrs Agricultural College proper is $25,000 for two years. You will be asked for an appropriation to construct more dormitories for the boys, who are now crowded for want of sufficient rooms. The

catalogue of students for 1895 discloses the number in all the classes as one hundred and thirty-eight.

An agricultural experiment station was established at the school by the General Assembly of 1887, and received annually from the State seventy-five hundred dollars. The State also gives an annual appropriation of eighteen hundred dollars to this station for investigating food economy. The State, in 1895, aided agricultural societies to the amount of $7,500.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is located at New Haven.

The buildings and operating facilities were furnished by the State, and the station received an appropriation of $8,500 from the State treasury. The work done includes the inspection of commercial fertilizers, which prevents a fraudulent article being used in the State. The work also includes analyzing butter and molasses for the State Dairy Commission, and field experiments to ascertain the effects of different fertilizers upon various crops. In this connection it may be interesting to state that a study of native and foreign turf making grasses is carried on at South Manchester, where may be seen grasses brought by private enterprise from England, France, Denmark, and Austria, as well as our native varieties, affording an object lesson not seen elsewhere in selecting grasses for the lawn or for grazing purposes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The General Assembly of 1895 enacted a law entitled "An Act concerning Diseases among Domestic Animals." This law was intended to effect in some degree the eradication of a disease in cattle, supposed by many to exist to a considerable extent in the State. The advocates of the original bill presented a much more radical measure to the consideration of the General Assembly, which called for drastic and compulsory action, to be embodied in a law that would entail great expense upon the State in its execution. The subject awak-

ened great interest among the dairymen, and numerous and extended hearings were had before the committee on Agriculture. The discussions before the committee were very interesting and highly educational upon a subject heretofore but little thought of in this State. Under the law the commissioners began their work, examining and killing the cattle which they found, by the tuberculin test, to be diseased, and with these results:

Whole number cattle examined,	8,349
Number killed,	1,287
Amount paid by state for cattle,	$32,745.00
Amount paid to Commissioners and Veterinary Surgeons,	14,755.00
Total expense paid by State, including Commissioners' and Veterinary charges,	$47,500

The wisdom of the law referred to is questioned by some of our citizens, and supposed benefits derived from its execution regarded as doubtful, while others believe in the dangerous prevalence of the disease, and the necessity of energetic and speedy action for its eradication along the lines already begun. The law, in any event, will, doubtless, in some particulars require amendment, and, perhaps, radical changes. I will venture to suggest that the law be so amended that the Comptroller shall approve the bills of the commissioners. In placing before you some of the facts and figures pertaining to this subject, I confidently leave the matter to your wisdom; suggesting that you have in mind in your action the financial question involved, as well as the possible results to the public health. If the law remains as it was enacted and the commissioners continue to execute the law as they have done in the line of their duty, then the expense to the State will, during the coming two years, be very large, in paying full prices for diseased cattle.

I also recommend, for the purposes of economy and efficiency, that the commission shall be composed of only one commissioner.

DAIRY COMMISSION.

The dairy interests of the State have increased greatly in recent years. There are sixty creameries in the State in operation, and the introduction of the system has greatly developed the dairy industry, by putting upon the market butter of such excellent quality that the poorer grades cannot longer find a market, except at very low and unremunerative prices.

The most important duty of the office of Dairy Commissioner is to enforce the law relating to the sale of imitation butter. The sale of oleomargarine at present is very limited, and only in accordance with law. The report of the Commissioner congratulates producers and consumers of pure food that the laws have accomplished good results.

IMPROVED ROADS.

The last General Assembly passed an act to provide for the improvement of public roads.

The law apportioned the expense incurred in the construction of the improved roads — one-third to be paid by the State, one-third by the county in which was located the town having road improvement, and the remaining one-third to be paid by the town. The law limited the amount to be taken from the State treasury to $75,000 annually.

In 1895 eighty towns applied for aid under the law, and in 1896 eighty-six towns took advantage of the law for building better roads.

The State has paid, or to pay,	$146,863.00
Counties have paid, or to pay,	146,863.00
Towns have paid,	515,279.00
In 1895–96, 35 miles of improved road, cost per mile,	6,170.00
In 1896, 42 miles of improved road, cost per mile,	5,348.50
The state has paid the Commissioners for services and expenses, including clerk hire,	17,612.00

If the State, by the action of this General Assembly, decides to continue the making of good roads under the present law, I recommend that the law be so amended that the poorer and sparsely-settled towns, which are struggling under as

heavy taxation as they can bear, and cannot take advantage of the law to obtain any improved roads, shall be exempted from at least their share of a county road tax imposed mainly for the benefit of richer towns.

I also recommend some restrictive legislation that will render the administration of the law less expensive to the State. The State has taken a considerable step forward in the work of good roads, and, with the experience gained, I suggest in the line of economy that the commission shall consist of but one commissioner, and that the commissioner be an experienced and practical civil engineer, and that the selectmen of the towns have more of the charge and oversight of making improved public roads, advised and directed by the State Commissioner.

RAILROADS.

The capital stock of all the steam railroad companies operating in the state,		$100,726,263.00
Funded debt,		43,660,000.00
Total current liabilities,		12,600,637.00
Gross earnings,		36,746,531.00
Number of passengers carried,	51,977,648	
Operating expenses,		25,754,818.00
Net earnings,		10,993,778.00
Amount of dividends paid,		4,561,966.00
Amount of taxes paid the State,		756,066.00
Number of employes,	27,484	

During 1895 twenty-six passengers were injured and three were killed in consequence of the carelessness of the passengers, and through no fault of the railroad companies. Of the twenty-three others injured, fourteen were hurt through personal negligence, while eight were injured through no fault of their own. In 1896 two passengers were killed owing to their own fault, and twelve were injured. Two hundred and fifty of the employes were injured, and thirty-seven were killed. At highway crossings twenty-seven persons were injured and eleven were killed. Seventy-five grade crossings have been abolished in twenty years, and there are at present 1,030, of which only 170 are protected by gates, flagmen, or

signal bells. The elimination of these dangerous places should be hastened.

The statute enacted by a former Legislature, prohibiting the crossing of any steam railroad by any electric, horse, or cable road at grade, was a wise and opportune measure, and, in my judgment, should not be repealed.

STREET RAILWAYS.

Twenty-seven street railway companies reported to the Railroad Commissioners, but two of the companies had not commenced business.

Capital stock,	$9,221,740.00
Funded debt,	8,690,100.00
Floating debt,	849,255.00
Total liabilities,	$18,761,095.00
Cost of road,	16,538,223.00
Cost of equipment,	2,047,037.00
Length of road and sidings, 859 miles.	
Gross earnings,	2,589,619.00
Net earnings,	884,894.00
Number of passengers carried, 62,789,791	

Whole number of persons injured, 290; killed, 20; passengers injured, 63; killed, 4. All others injured, 223, of whom 16 died of injuries.

INSURANCE.

The condition of the insurance companies of Connecticut shows no great changes, other than the healthy growth which good foundations, good management, and conservative handling of investments, and the absence of any unusual losses always brings.

The fire insurance stock companies have a

Paid-up capital,	$10,175,000.00
Gross assets,	36,003,325.00
Increase in ten years,	11,963,000.00
Surplus over all liabilities,	8,178,155.00

The mutual life insurance companies have

Assets,	$1,734,841.00
Increase in ten years,	539,544.00
Over all liabilities, surplus of cash,	1,345,393.00

The life insurance companies of the State operating on fixed premium plan have

Assets amounting to	$136,329,480.00
Increase in ten years,	25,490,154.00
Total liabilities, except capital,	120,016,875.00
Paid death and endowment claims during the year,	9,381,719.00

Companies doing life insurance business on assessment plan:

Total assets,	$9,289,812.00
Paid claims during year,	1,749,433.00

Benevolent orders and fraternal societies are doing a very large business in life insurance in the State.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters estimated the losses by fire in Connecticut for 1895 at $1,840,000. The problem of reducing the amount of annual fire loss is an economic question which, I believe, should receive your attention, and remedial legislative action, if possible.

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES.

The State Board of Charities was originated by the Legislature, and consists of five members. The duties of the Board are to inspect almshouses, homes for dependent children, institutions in which persons are detained by compulsion, to ascertain whether the inmates are properly treated, acting as far as possible through the persons in charge of such institutions. The State appropriated the sum of four thousand dollars for the necessary expenses of the Board, including the salary of the secretary. There are at present one hundred and sixty-eight (168) institutions maintained in Connecticut for the care of its defective and dependent classes. The amount paid by the State for the support of a part of these institutions during the year ending September 30, 1896, was $662,329. The amount paid by the towns for the support of the dependent classes during the year ending September 30, 1895, was $780,104.

It is believed by the Board that the majority of institutions in Connecticut comply with the requirements of humane and careful management, and that those that fall below this standard are being kept under constant supervision, in the hope of effecting ultimately an improved condition.

I refer you to the very interesting report of the secretary for full information, and the recommendations of the Board.

THE CONNECTICUT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

This institution was opened in Middletown January 1, 1870, founded by gifts from charitable persons, for the care and instruction of girls without homes or whose surroundings were evil, and leading to ruined lives.

The whole number of girls received since opening the school,	1,257
Number under care during the last two years,	469
Number at present in the school,	241
Amount of money paid by the state, 1895,	$41,329.25
Amount paid in 1896,	40,784.82

The institution has funds invested contributed by individuals from which it derives some income, but this money is inadequate for carrying on the work. The girls in the school are graded according to age and behavior, and are taught the art of cooking and housekeeping. When they arrive at a certain rank in attainments and behavior they are placed in families, and are still looked after carefully by the excellent lady visiting agent of the school. As a result, 90 per cent. of all the girls who have gone out of the school are leading useful lives, and are respectable members of society.

THE CONNECTICUT SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

The report of the Trustees for the Connecticut School for Boys for the year ending September 30, 1896, gives the number of boys received between September 30, 1895, and September 30, 1896, as 190. Number returned on old commitments, 68, and the whole number in school, 469.

Amount of money received from the State Treasury during

the year, $70,087.54. Useful trades are being taught, including carpentry, blacksmithing, brick-laying, and wood-carving. Printing and telegraphy are also taught.

Since the opening of the school in 1854 there have been received 5,815 boys.

CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

The north hospital, which was ordered by the last General Assembly, has been completed and furnished at a cost of $101,786, or, in excess of appropriation, $1,786, and the excess was paid from the funds of the Hospital by vote of the Trustees. This building has been for some time filled with patients.

The constantly increasing demand for accommodations has been so great that the Trustees have been obliged to erect an additional building adjoining the hospital, and capable of providing for the comfort of fifty additional patients.

More than half the patients admitted during the past two years were incurable before reaching the hospital, an evidence that they had been inadequately provided for in their homes, or in almshouses until too late to be benefited. The Trustees ask that provision be made elsewhere for insane convicts.

The number of patients present September 30, 1895, was 1,788. For further statistics I refer you to the report of the Trustees.

THE LAKEVILLE SCHOOL FOR IMBECILES.

No important alterations have been undertaken during the past year, but the school has continued with its limited accommodations as well as could be expected. The school is well conducted, and the aid from the State economically and faithfully expended.

Amount paid by the state,	$16,586.05
Appropriation for building,	3,500.00
Number of state beneficiaries, according to last report available,	114

CONNECTICUT INSTITUTE AND INDUSTRIAL HOME FOR THE BLIND.

This institution dates its corporate existence to October, 1893. The work which the institution seeks to perform is the education and the industrial training of blind children of the State. The institution is not under the direct management of the State, although appropriations have been made to it. The Legislature of 1895 appropriated fifteen thousand dollars to provide buildings, furniture, tools, and apparatus for the use of the institute.

The institute is located in Hartford, and has been educating and training in industrial pursuits fifty-two blind children during the past year.

THE MYSTIC ORAL SCHOOL.

I recommend that the appropriation of State funds be withdrawn from The Mystic Oral School, and that suitable provision for the State pupils therein be made elsewhere, as the State of Connecticut does not need two schools for the instruction of its deaf wards.

STATE REFORMATORY.

The General Assembly of 1895 passed an act establishing a State Reformatory for the custody and correction of male offenders between the ages of sixteen and thirty, tramps and habitual drunkards of any age over sixteen.

Five directors were appointed, and the sum of fifty thousand dollars was appropriated for the purchase of land and the erection of buildings. A site for the building was selected and a tract of land purchased, consisting of about sixty acres, in the limits of the city of Hartford.

The selection of the site I regard as very unfortunate, and great opposition to the location has developed on the part of the city authorities of Hartford.

I recommend an early and thorough investigation into the whole project of the Reformatory, with the purpose of restrict-

ing undue large future expenditure on the part of the State, and a possible suppression of the entire scheme.

I recommend to your attention the report of the State Board of Charities for further information upon the subject, and also the report of the Board of Directors of the Reformatory.

STATE PRISON.

The number of convicts confined in the institution for the year ending October 1, 1895, 395; during the fiscal year there have been received, 188; making the total number in confinement during the year, 583; of the above number there have been discharged, 198; leaving in confinement September 30, 1896, 385, or ten less in the prison than on the same date of the preceding year.

Improvements on the prison building contemplated by the last General Assembly, for which an appropriation of $20,000 has been made, have been completed within the amount appropriated.

The erection of an insane ward at the prison is needed. Insane convicts are transferred to the Insane Hospital at Middletown, and thus afforded an opportunity to escape from the latter institution, which was not constructed or intended for criminals. This opportunity to escape is also an incentive for feigning insanity on the part of those confined in the prison. There are at present held in the insane hospital thirty-three convicts from the prison at Wethersfield. I recommend an appropriation for the building of this much-needed addition to the prison, and thus remedy a serious defect in the equipment of the institution.

THE CONNECTICUT PRISON ASSOCIATION.

The Connecticut Prison Association is an organization to assist discharged prisoners in various ways, such as clothing, tools, tickets to their homes, or to places of employment.

During the year, number assisted, 165; assisted prisoners, discharged from jails, 7; amount received from the State,

$3,000.00; expended in aid of prisoners, $2,647.00; on account of salary of agent, $352.02.

The agent reports that for the past fourteen years less than eight per cent. of prisoners discharged from the Connecticut State Prison have returned to that institution.

LICENSE.

At the last town meetings in the towns of the State, ninety-seven towns voted no license for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and seventy-one towns voted to grant licenses.

This result shows no change as to number of towns from the previous year.

I shall co-operate with you in any wise measures you may devise touching this important subject, and especially for the better enforcement of existing laws.

FACTORY INSPECTION.

The number of factories inspected, 1,461; number of employes, 135,909; number of factories in which changes were ordered, 769; number of fatal accidents in factories, 19.

Many elevators are found unsafe for want of appliances to hold the car in case of cable breaking. Three instances have come to the knowledge of the inspector within the last year. Two factories were found unsafe, as the structures were overloaded by machinery. The attention of the local building inspectors was called to these cases and they at once took action.

Ventilation of factories has received attention and appliances for removing dust been urged.

THE MARRETT BEQUEST.

I am informed that the fund given to the State by Philip Marrett for the benefit of idiots, imbeciles, and feeble-minded persons, has never been formally accepted by the General Assembly, but that, owing to a misapprehension of the nature of the trust and the rights of the State under the will, the General Assembly of 1893 rejected a resolution directing the Treas-

urer to accept this fund. The Supreme Court has since decided that the whole beneficial interest in this bequest would have become vested in the State, had the State not refused to accept it in 1893. Upon learning of this decision the Treasurer brought an action against the trustee under the will, claiming, among other things, that the action of the General Assembly of 1893 did not constitute a refusal of the fund. Should the court decide this case in favor of the State, it will be your duty to act without delay, if any legislative action be necessary to insure the rights of the State.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The general health of the State during the past two years has been fully up to the average standard, if measured by the mortality.

While dangerous and contagious diseases in unusual frequency have appeared in many of the towns and cities, the vigilance of the health officers, and their prompt action, has prevented an epidemic. The public is growing more tolerant of the methods of health officials and co-operating with them in their efforts to stay the ravages of the contagious maladies. Nothing is better understood than that the prevention of the spread of contagious disease depends upon isolation, and no public want is more apparent than suitable places in most of our towns for this purpose. The secretary of the State Board of Health recommends legislation so as to bring into greater uniformity the methods of sanitary administration throughout the State. To accomplish this it is desirable that, 1st. The tenure of office of city and borough health officers be extended to four years. 2d. To require annual and stated reports from health officers of cities and boroughs to the State Board of Health.

The report of the State Board of Health is full of valuable vital statistics and much general information concerning the work of the board, affecting every person in the State. The board has drawn from the treasury of the State, annually, five

thousand dollars, and for investigating the natural waters of the State, a further sum of twenty-four hundred dollars.

The question of the disposal of the sewage of the larger towns and cities is being forced upon the attention of many communities in the State, and the present indications point to a time not far distant when these towns will be compelled to cease discharging their sewage into the streams, and thereby contaminating the waters below and possibly carrying disease and death to the people.

I commend to your consideration this important subject, and advise that a thorough investigation be instituted by competent expert State authority for the enlightenment and instruction of towns and municipalities, which see clearly the approaching necessity of action, but are at a loss to decide on any plan which will meet the difficulty.

CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD.

The Connecticut National Guard, under the command of Brigadier-General George Haven, consists of two hundred and five (205) commissioned officers and twenty-six hundred and seventy-eight enlisted men (2,678).

The strength of the Governor's Guard is twenty-five (25) commissioned officers and three hundred and seventy-three (373) enlisted men.

The expenses of the Connecticut National Guard for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1896, are as follows:

Adjutant-General, for printing and office expenses,	$1,855.71
Quartermaster-General's expenses,	68,733.10
Paymaster-General,	44,796.96
Commissary-General,	13,566.44
Comptroller, for officers' salaries and pay of clerks,	11,895.15
Total expenses,	$140,847 36
Expense of the Governor's Guard,	14,370.81
The enrollment numbers,	108,389
The number liable for military duty in case of war,	105,636
Total number liable to commutation tax,	81,884
Amount of tax collectible,	$147,392

The Naval Battalion is an organization of three divisions with a commanding officer and staff, with seventeen (17) commissioned officers and one hundred and forty-nine (149) enlisted men.

The only changes during the year have been the disbanding of the Second Separate Company, and a Naval Battalion has been organized by the addition of one division in Hartford and an engineer division at New Haven. The General Assembly of 1895 appropriated $10,000 to be used in making much-needed repairs of armories. A part of the appropriation has already been expended.

The greatest need of the guard at present is new arms. The old Peabody rifles ought to be discarded. A bill is now pending before Congress which, if passed, will furnish the states with the Springfield rifles, and it is hoped this will be accomplished before the Guard is again called to camp.

The successful encampment at Niantic last summer was the subject of much praise and approval, not only by competent military authorities of the State, but by United States military officers detailed to instruct in guard duty. The Commanding General of the United States Army visited the camp and expressed himself as very much gratified with the appearance of the troops.

The Connecticut Brigade is in good condition and no doubt could be depended upon to promptly respond to any emergency demanding military force. The expense to the State is considerable, but it is shown that the commutation tax is sufficient to cover the present outlay.

The Soldiers' Home at Noroton is managed by the Soldiers' Hospital Board, and the institution ranks among the first of State Soldiers' Homes in the country.

Number of soldiers on the roll November 30, 1896, was,	454
Number in the Connecticut Hospital for Insane,	27
The State has paid to the Soldiers' Hospital Board,	$60,000.00
For building,	14,700.00
Total expenses,	$74,700.00

LABOR BUREAU.

The report of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics is largely devoted to the subject of taxation, and irregular methods in valuations of property which prevail in the different towns of the State. The report is accompanied by a graduated scale, showing the per cent. assessed of full value at a glance. In view of present interest in the State in questions of taxation and finance, this report is opportune and will be found useful.

THE TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

In common with other states, Connecticut has been invited by the State of Tennessee to participate in celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of her admission into the Union, the event to take the form of a Centennial and International Exposition, to be held at Nashville for six months, opening May 1, 1897. Preparations are being made upon such a scale as to indicate that it will be an attractive and meritorious enterprise, and aside from the material advantage it offers for the exhibition of Connecticut products, it seems proper that we should unite with sister states in an exhibition of cordial interstate fellowship upon an occasion of this character. I therefore recommend that the subject be duly considered, suggesting that such appropriation be made as will enable the State to be creditably represented there, and that the appointment of a commission be authorized as its official representatives.

FISHERIES AND GAME.

The duties imposed by the law upon the Commissioners of Fisheries and Game are, "The supervision of hatcheries and retaining ponds, the introduction and distribution of such food fish and game as are adapted to the waters or lands of this State, and the enforcement of all laws relating to fish and game."

To carry on the work under the law for two years, the last Legislature appropriated for the propagation and distribution